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Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's department of natural resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

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COVER

Summer time is outdoor time over most of these United States, and a multitude of Americans turn to the wilderness areas of the Pacific Northwest for relaxation and inspiration. These campers beside the Rogue River in Oregon reap many benefits from BLM's land management program. For more on the Rogue River, see Page 15.


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Stewart L. Udall, Secretary
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Karl S. Landstrom, Director

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Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation means many things—cool water, the chance at a fighting trout, the sheer pleasure of being outdoors in the sunshine. As the Nation's population expands, the need for recreation facilities grows ever more important. Lands of the national land reserve will loom large in the future plans for America's outdoor living.



The Man Who Believed in Mt. Rainier

By T. E. Gootée

ONE of the great scenic wonders of the Pacific Northwest—Mount Rainier National Park—owes its existence in part to an unsung, unheralded, and almost unknown government worker—Cyrus A. Mosier, an imaginative naturalist and perhaps an incurable dreamer.

A special field agent for the Department of the In-

terior, Mosier explored the rugged region around Mount Rainier, wrote dramatically of his findings, and campaigned vigorously in behalf of nature and his own beliefs.

Although first sighted at long distance in 1792, during all of the next century only a handful of amateur explorers penetrated the deep forests and reached the

lofty Mt. Rainier area in western Washington. These adventurers brought back tales of the two-mile summit above the Cascade Range, of peaks sheathed in ice, of gorges ribbed by once-volcanic lava, of ravines choked with glistening glaciers—all surrounded by flowering meadows, alpine lakes, cascading rivers, verdant valleys, and trees, trees, trees.

With little identity except legend, the mountain and its surroundings then constituted “public lands”—a remote part of the national land reserve of a young, expanding America. It had been opened to homesteading, but the huge tracts of timber discouraged agriculture and grazing. Inaccessible to but a few frontiersmen, the scenic area remained uncharted and little known.

But a civil engineer from Tacoma, one Fred G. Plummer, stirred the real interest when in 1890 he said in a newspaper interview he had seen a tree 650 feet high!

Then, from the Seattle Land Office in 1891, came Cyrus Mosier. By title, a special agent of the Department of the Interior. By profession, a combination surveyor, geologist, naturalist, timber specialist, and claims investigator.

In this case, his mission was more simply stated—to make a survey of forest lands in the vicinity of Mount Rainier. He was to see if there were trees 650 feet high.

Riding a long-eared mule, he ranged the hills and valleys—observing, checking, estimating, and recording details.

And once a week, Mosier reported by mail to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, back east in the District of Columbia.

At first his communications were brief, formal, desultory—routinely filling standard report forms. But soon, intrigued by his many discoveries, he supplemented his reports with lengthy, descriptive letters. He saw no 600-foot trees, but he saw other great sights.

“Ascending from the base of the mountain,” he wrote in the summer of 1891, “I found groups of pine at 4,000 feet * * * in numbers and size of considerable value. At 5,000 feet * * * I found beautiful larch timber, two to three feet in diameter, and 75 to 100 feet in height * * * This timber should be reserved, because of its scarcity * * * and great value as ship lumber * * * I also found occasional yew, willow, maple, dogwood, wild cherry, bearberry, cottonwood,





High above the valleys surrounding Mt. Rainier, the snow is seldom broken by the tracks of skiers. Here Mosier found tiny plants that turned the snow red.

ash, quaking aspen, balm of Gilead, crab apple, and species of pine."

Caught in a mountain storm, he later described the aftermath of much wind and snow. "At sunset," he wrote, "the mountains wore shrouds of purple and gold. As the stars came out, one by one, the heavens were illuminated as with electric lights * * * The white sheets of snow wrapped about the shoulders of the mountains, and draped about their heads, glittered like the shimmering of burnished silver * * *

"During the night, the winds arose and swept through the foliage of the gnarled pines and tangled larches * * * playing a Grand Oratorio, a sad requiem, a dirge. The forests bowed their heads and waved their spectral arms * * * as if bidding farewell to the dead past, while the procession of Aeons moved on."

Continuing his land survey, Mosier was impressed by the geological potential of the area.

"Glaciers," he reported, "are actively engaged in transporting boulders and debris, * * * scratching rocks, * * * forming hills and moraines, * * * scooping out lakes, * * * and cutting water courses." One glacier was a mile wide and about five miles long.

Mosier noted an abundance of flowers and a variety of species—including enormous fields of rhododendrons in full bloom. At 8,000 feet, he found a microscopic red plant "springing from the white drifts of everlasting snows * * * tinging them with carmine as if with blood."

He noted colonies of the now scarce Rocky Mountain goat, and many mule deer, bear, beaver, marmot, cougar, wolf, and smaller animals. And "there are vast swarms of migratory birds in spring and autumn."

It was along the rivers and in the valleys that Mosier found abuses of timber, and needs for reforestation. He was so moved by occasional wanton destruction, that his reports to the General Land Office became longer, more forceful, and more vindictive.

"The government," he asserted, "should never have parted title to any of the forest lands adjacent to Mount Rainier. * * *

"The liberal homestead laws have proven loopholes through which capital, corporations, and companies have stealthily crept into possession and acquired title to the most valuable redwood, pine, fir, and cedar lands on the Pacific coast * * *

"Waste and devastation is appalling * * *. Every sawmill wastes over 30,000 board feet daily. For all of Washington, there is an annual loss of a billion dollars * * * But the waste in cutting logs is worse. Only t

best trees are felled * * * only the choicest part of each tree is used * * *. The burning of debris means charred and barren areas * * * with no prospect of reforestation."

"All of these reasons," he concluded sagely, "are why this land should be set aside forever as a public reservation, a national park. Americans will discover that the picturesque landscapes, sublime scenery, and natural wonders of this region are without parallel on the face of the globe."

In his weekly reports throughout 1891 and 1892, Mosier continued to press the need for a national reservation. His glowing descriptions and weekly pleas resulted in President Harrison setting aside, by proclamation, in 1893, several forest preserves at the mountain.

He was a public servant without fame. His only reimbursement was the satisfaction of participating in his own conservation movement in behalf of nature.

Still advocating timber reservations in the Mount Rainier region, he personally contacted civic groups and influential persons in Tacoma and other cities—endeavoring to win their support. Although accomplished on his own time, he duly reported these efforts in his weekly reports to the General Land Office.

The reports of Cyrus Mosier, Special Agent, were received with more than casual concern by government authorities in Washington, D.C. Quite a number of officials were impressed, among them Senator Watson Squire of Washington State. Squire enlisted the aid of several scientific societies, and continued other efforts in behalf of the movement to preserve the region of Mount Rainier. This brought to the entire nation the story of western land that should be saved from exploitation, and conserved for future generations, and

the effort gathered the support of, among others, the National Geographic Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Geographical Society of America, the Sierra Club, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Congress subsequently enacted legislation creating the Mount Rainier National Park. As if using the very words of Mosier, "To preserve this piece of nature unsullied * * * to keep this forest with its rocks and rills, its shrubs and mosses, making it the home of plants and animals peculiar to the Cascades * * * there will be provided a *great public park*, accessible to people with homes in the area, and to people of the whole country * * *."

Formally established in 1899, Mount Rainier National Park includes more than 240,000 acres, taken from the public domain.

The mountain, itself, towers 14,410 feet above sea level, an imposing landmark of the Pacific Northwest. It is doubly impressive because of the mantle of glacial ice that conceals all but the most rugged crags and ridges. In contrast to this bold and forceful landscape are the flower-covered mountain meadows, the cascading streams and rivers, and the deep forests that encircle Mount Rainier.

It is a lasting, living tribute to Cyrus Mosier and many others who struggled long and valiantly to assure this dedicated region of the national land reserve.

Cyrus Mosier probably never wrote anything more epic than his weekly reports to the Commissioner of the General Land Office. But they adequately conveyed his intense love of nature, his deep desire for conservation, and his dreams of idealism.

Hikers sun themselves beside Mirror Lake in Mt. Rainier National Park, a monument today to Mosier's foresight.





New Facts About Our Agricultural Land Laws

by Irving Senzel

Chief, Division of Lands and Recreation

MOST of us have experienced the jolt of turning off a modern super-highway onto a road built for the horse-and-buggy days. It can be an emphatic reminder that things built a hundred years ago can become obsolete—even though they may still be in use. So it is with some of our land laws, and especially those dealing with agricultural settlement on the public lands.

Last June the Assistant Secretary for Public Land Management, John A. Carver, Jr., notified the Congress that the nonmineral public land laws are in urgent need of modernization. But land laws, unlike roads that are obviously unsuited for modern travel, may be obsolete

for years without the public or the Congress being aware of the fact—especially when the laws are surrounded with emotion-laden myth.

This is the case with three agricultural land laws, which have been significant in the opening of the Old West but are now unsuited for the job they were designed to do.

These land laws—the Homestead, Desert Land, and Pittman Acts—were written to encourage the agricultural development of vast areas of the West. And especially with the Homestead Act of 1862, they once served admirable purposes. Now, however, there are many reasons to believe that the laws are obsolete. But the facts have not been documented.

One of the basic reasons for not keeping the laws up to date is the absence of solid facts on the effectiveness of the laws. Research in the public lands law field has been long neglected. As a result, much of what is generally “known” about them is more myth than fact.

Employees of the Bureau of Land Management working with these laws are acutely aware that they are not operating in the manner popularly assumed. But—working on a case-by-case basis, even they do not have a full appreciation of the facts. To determine what the facts really are, a two-phase effectiveness study has been started. And enough of the facts are already in to lead to some fairly definitive conclusions.

Examining 10 Years of Applications

The first part of the study covers the land applications under the three acts for the 10-year period 1950–1959, in 11 western States. The Alaska study will be even more comprehensive.

Phase I of the study is an analysis of what happened to *applications filed* during the period of the study. Phase II will be an analysis of what happened to *lands patented* under applications filed during that period.

This article summarizes what has been learned so far during the Phase I study.

What Are the Chances?

In States other than Alaska, lands cannot be entered under the agricultural laws unless they are first classified and opened to entry. The applications for entry are treated as petitions for classification. What are the chances of having a petition granted and an application for entry allowed? The answer is one of the most significant results of the study determined so far.

And the answer is—the chances are small, and getting smaller all the time.

Approximately 25,000 applications were filed during

A Glossary of Public Land Terms

Many of the terms used in this article have very specific meanings when applied to the land laws. The definitions below are general, and are not intended to give a precise legal definition of the various terms.

Allowed application. An application to acquire title to public lands which has been accepted and approved as having been filed in full compliance with the requirements of the regulations; an entry.

Applicant. An individual, corporation, State or local government, applying for rights in, or title to, public lands or resources. Agricultural applications can be filed only by individuals.

Application. A formal request for rights in, or eventual title to, public lands or resources.

Desert land entry. An entry of irrigable arid agricultural public lands, under the act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 377, 43 U.S.C. secs. 321 et seq.), as amended, which the entryman (or his heirs, assigns, or devisees) reclaims, irrigates, and cultivates in part and for which he usually pays \$1.25 per acre.

Entry. In general, an allowed application which was submitted by an applicant who will acquire title to the lands by payment of cash or its equivalent and/or by entering upon and improving the lands (see *final entry* or *original entry*).

Entryman. An individual, corporation, association, State or local government, which has made an entry. Only individuals can be agricultural entrymen.

Final certificate. A document which evidences that an entryman is entitled to a patent provided that no irregularities are found in connection with his entry.

Final entry. An entry for which a final certificate has been issued.

Final proof. A detailed statement by an entryman and his witnesses purporting to prove that he has fully complied with the public land laws relating to his entry.

Homestead entry. An entry initiated under the homestead laws (43 U.S.C., Chapter 7) which provide for the issuance of patents to entrymen who settle upon and improve agricultural public lands.

Land classification, Taylor Grazing Act. Determination pursuant to the Taylor Grazing Act of the suitability of public lands for disposition under a particular public land law.

Nonmineral public land laws. Laws providing for entry and other uses of public lands for purposes other than mineral development.

Original entry. An entry in connection with which the entryman must comply with further requirements of the public land laws before final certificate will issue. An original entry becomes a final entry upon issuance of a final certificate.

Patent. A document which conveys to the patentee legal title to public lands.

Pittman Act entry. An entry of public lands in Nevada made by an individual or association of individuals who can earn the right to acquire title to the lands through the discovery of underground sources of water (43 U.S.C., Chapter 10).

Public lands or public domain lands. Original public domain lands which have never left Federal ownership; also, lands in Federal ownership which were obtained by the Government in exchange for public lands or for timber on such lands; also, original public domain lands which have reverted to Federal ownership through operation of the public land laws.

Relinquishment. A voluntary surrender of an application, right, or claim.

Land-hungry Americans have swarmed into some areas which held promise of being suitable for agriculture. One of the most famous of the land rushes came with the opening of the Oklahoma Territory to homesteading.



the period of the study. Here are the results of the initial applications:

Type	Percent allowed	Percent denied
Homestead applications-----	14	86
Desert land applications-----	17	83
Pittman Act applications-----	11	89

Chances for securing an entry—having an application approved—varied from State to State. Of the homestead entries allowed, 57 percent were in Nevada and Utah. Of the desert land entries, 64 percent of those allowed were in Idaho and Nevada. The Pittman Act applies only to Nevada.

Taking It All the Way

If the entry is allowed, what are the chances of actually getting a patent to the land? The answer, based on allowed entries processed all the way to completion, isn't encouraging. In the 11 States, the chances shown by the study under the homestead and desert land acts are only 50-50. And under the Pittman Act, where entry is allowed if underground water is discovered, the odds are so slim as to make almost any Nevada gambler blanch! Only about 1 out of 100 went to patent.

Homesteading Tough in Alaska Too

The study revealed some very interesting information about homesteading in Alaska too. In this State, where classification prior to entry is not required and where

standards for qualifying by cultivating the land have traditionally been modest, over the years 7 out of 10 entries have failed to go to patent—about 4 out of 10 by the process of voluntary relinquishment.

Success and Failure Compared

The varying pattern by States of the success, as measured by patent, contrasted to applications for which no patent was issued, is detailed in the tables below. Figures are given only where there were 50 or more cases processed to final closing.

Homestead Entries

State	Patents	Failures
Nevada -----	38	76
Utah -----	53	30

There was considerably more activity, but a similarly unsatisfying showing of success, in desert lands.

Desert Land Entries

State	Patents	Failures
Arizona -----	90	63
California -----	87	196
Idaho -----	533	364
Nevada -----	77	235
Oregon -----	26	53
Utah -----	51	40
Wyoming -----	79	21
Total -----	943	979

It's a Slim Chance

What does all this mean in terms of any individual getting a "farm" through the means of these laws? (The word *farm* is put in quotes because it is questionable how much land actually goes into agriculture this way. An objective of Phase II of the study is to find out what actually happens to lands after the patent is issued.)

Every citizen of the United States is born with the right to apply for a homestead or desert entry. This right *can* be used, under the law, when the individual reaches 21 or becomes the head of a family or a veteran. The right is lost once it is used, and by certain other means.

Aliens can gain the right to homestead by taking the necessary steps for citizenship.

All in all, millions of our citizens today have the right to apply for Federal lands under the agricultural laws.

A total of 1,180 patents have been issued so far on the basis of applications filed in the 11 States during the study period, or an average of 120 annually. During the same period, about 150 patents were issued each year for lands in Alaska. Thus the chances of any individual's getting a farm by this means is a mathematical problem dealing in astronomical figures.

The Cost of Homesteading

How about the costs of handling all this business—much of which seems doomed to failure from the start? That's a facet of the study that is waiting more detailed

analysis when all the facts are in. But because the Pittman Act has apparently reached its final stages, a rough estimate based on the applications made during the study period has been made for patenting lands under this act.

The estimates of the Pittman Act costs, hobbled with restraints to underestimate rather than to overestimate, concluded that only a very small acreage will be patented under the Act and that it will cost Uncle Sam well over \$100 per acre for each acre patented. The total costs, including the expenditures by States and local governments and the applicants themselves (both successful and unsuccessful) will amount to more than \$200 per acre patented.

Horse and Buggy Laws

Yes, it is still possible to homestead. And interest remains high, as shown by the letters received daily by the Bureau of Land Management. Americans are a confident people, having great pride in their abilities to overcome great odds. But the "public domain" is no longer a great reservoir of agricultural lands and the horse-and-buggy laws which encourage people to attempt to homestead in the face of the odds we have seen fall short of today's needs.

As this issue went to press, the House of Representatives had approved a bill which, if enacted, would repeal the Pittman Act. The Department of the Interior has also recommended specific legislation to place the agricultural land laws in better perspective considering the present character of the "public domain."

This homestead patent, signed at Santa Fe in 1876, is one of the thousands of similar documents that gave title to land under provisions of "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain."

HOMESTEAD.	
Land Office at <i>Santa Fe N.M.</i>	
<i>March 21st 1876</i>	
CERTIFICATE, } <i>No. 24</i> }	APPLICATION, } <i>No. 28</i> }
It is hereby certified, That pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress, approved May 20, 1862, entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain,"	
<i>Antonio Acito, of San Miguel County</i> has	
made payment in full for <i>South west quarter</i> of	
Section <i>21</i> of Range <i>24 East</i>	in Township <i>7 North</i> containing <i>Four hundred & Sixty five</i> acres.
Now, therefore, be it known, That on presentation of this Certificate to the	
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, the said	
shall be entitled to a Patent for the Tract of Land above described.	
<i>Joseph Serna</i> Register	



WILDLIFE on the Move

HUNTERS on the national land reserve in future years will find some new and more vigorous herds in several areas, as the result of big-game transplants during the winter of 1961-62. One move, part of the Department's long-range program to balance an elk herd with its range, involved some of the controversial Yellowstone Park elk.

The Yellowstone elk were part of a herd that threatened to ruin the park's northern range and drive other species from the park. At one time the herd reached 10,000—about twice what game managers considered elk aplenty for the range. The hungry elk were competing for food with moose, mountain sheep, deer and antelope.

These are some of the Yellowstone elk herd that was transplanted to the Steamboat Mountain area.



Transplanting was only part of the solution to the elk problem, which became critical this past winter when severe weather followed several years of abnormally mild winters. Remaining inside the National Park in milder weather, the overpopulation threatened to cause permanent damage to the range. The elk have already crowded out beaver and whitetail deer.

The Department's wildlife biologists attacked the problem from two angles—transplanting and direct reduction. The direct reduction program was conducted by park rangers; the transplanting involved trapping the big animals and moving them to distant and more productive ranges.

Away they scamper! Biologists found plenty of food for the released Yellowstone elk under the snow.



Some 45 of the transplanted elk were released in the Steamboat Mountains area of the Rock Springs District in Wyoming. Details on the size and location of the elk release were worked out jointly by local Wyoming Game and Fish Commission personnel, BLM district field men, and the cooperating private landowners in the area.

The transplanting of Yellowstone elk into the Steamboat Mountain area was not a new introduction—a small herd of elk already roamed the public ranges. During recent years, however, the local herd had shown signs of stagnating, according to game biologists. They hope the new introduction will add “new blood” and vigor to the local herd.

Biologists feel that the increased production which should result from the transplant will mean a greater hunter harvest in future years.

The local herd has provided limited hunting in past years. This fall, under close supervision of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, hunting will continue in the Steamboat Mountain area—with the addition of the new elk from Yellowstone.

Down the map in southwestern Colorado, another transplanting took place in March. This project involved moving 22 skittish and swift-footed pronghorn antelope from the Black Forest, near Colorado Springs, to the Disappointment-Gypsum Gap area in San Miguel County.

And as in Wyoming, the antelope transfer was a cooperative effort between BLM and the Colorado Game and Fish Department.

The animals were trapped by the wildlife experts, who corralled the pronghorns and trucked them to the Big Gypsum Valley in San Miguel County.

Believed to be the first herd of pronghorns in southwestern Colorado, the prized game animals were released on BLM range.

Pronghorn antelope are back in the unsettled lands of the Arizona Strip now, after an absence of almost 60 years. Last November, BLM and the Arizona Game and Fish Department released 31 pronghorns in the Arizona Strip.

Bordered on the east by Kanab Creek, on the south by the gorge of the Grand Canyon, on the west by Nevada and on the north by Utah, the Strip is almost an island separated from the rest of Arizona.

This operation was the result of several years of effort on the part of the Bureau, and followed studies and agreements with other local users of the range. The animals were released, appropriately, in Antelope Valley—near where the current world record pronghorn was taken before the turn of the century.

During the early days of Arizona the Strip was the



One of the stateliest of American big game animals, the elk boasts a huge rack during summer and fall months.

home of thriving herds of the pronghorn, but hunters from neighboring areas and changing land uses dwindled the herds to extinction. But now, with the range and hunting more adequately managed, biologists are hopeful that the day of the antelope in the Arizona Strip has returned.

Transplanting big game animals is a tricky job, wildlife biologists attest, both from the standpoint of handling the sharp-hooved animals and from the view of the welfare of the animals and the range.

But in all three of the transplants, however, the State's game and fish personnel played a major role in the work, and provided the technical know-how to assure a successful introduction. BLM range managers, whose task it is to conserve and develop the national land reserve, cooperated fully in welcoming the new inhabitants.

Winding up the wildlife introductions for the year, a flock of 800 game birds from India were released in May near Deming, New Mexico. The birds are a type of desert partridge known as Francolins, and are somewhat larger than a quail. The 800 birds released in New Mexico were wild-trapped in the semi-arid province of Rajasthan in north central India and flown to the United States. Both the grey and black varieties were released on lands managed by BLM in the Waterloo area south of Deming in cooperation with the Department of Game and Fish, which supplied the birds and technical advice.



active acres

The value of petroleum products produced during 1961 from Federal and Indian lands under oil and gas leases supervised by the Department's Geological Survey was more than \$1,005 million and the royalty value was in excess of \$143 million, reflecting more than a 12 percent increase over the previous year.

As of December 31, 1961, there were 152,220 oil and gas leases under supervision, embracing some 112,172,000 acres of public, Outer Continental Shelf, acquired, Indian, and certain military and naval petroleum reserve lands. There are about 30,000 producible wells on the leased lands, and production of crude oil totaled about 291,900,000 barrels during 1961.

Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow

Unlike the loser in Aesop's tale of the tortoise and the hare, at least two of the 2,500 snowshoe hare released recently by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game wasted no time at all in making tracks for somewhere else.

Each was marked with a numbered red metal ear-tag for identification.

Two tags have come home to roost so far—revealing a great deal about the hares' travels in the interim.

Number 2257 turned up the same night he was released, drowned in a raceway at the Federal hatchery at Nashua, New Hampshire—12 miles from where he was released a few hours earlier.

Number 2825 was released on February 7, and was found dead a month later, some 24 air-line miles from where he was released. After crossing several major highways, he was finally the victim of a passing car.

New Program Boosts Community Health Projects

Local governments and non-profit groups are the latest to benefit from the Department's expanding program under the Recreation

and Public Purposes Act, with public health projects now eligible for lands from the national land reserve at the token fee of \$2.50 per acre.

The new program, announced in April, makes areas up to 640 acres available for hospitals, treatment centers, research facilities, and water and sewage treatment plants.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall commented that this new program is "another step in the Interior Department's policy to encourage the transfer of suitable public land to public use under State or local control."

Colorado's first local recreation development under the new BLM policy came in Hinsdale County, where local officials are shown accepting patent for 20 acres on Lake Cristobal at \$2.50 an acre.



"Water Famine" Film Available

The dramatic and comprehensive CBS Television Report, "Water Famine," is now available on film for use of school and adult groups. Following an enthusiastic response when it was televised on October 19, the Bell System has made prints available for wider and continuing use.

The 55-minute film, without commercials, can be secured for showing, free of charge, by contacting local Bell Telephone business offices.

The film emphasizes the influence water has had upon civilizations throughout history illustrates the consequences of past and present waste, and puts the prospects for meeting our need for water in perspective through interviews and vivid sequences dealing with research in the United States and elsewhere.

961 Fire Losses

There were fewer fires on lands administered by the Department of the Interior in 1961 than in 1960 and burned-over acreage reached a new low. Over 462 million acres under the Department's jurisdiction require fire protection.

In 1961, there were 3,357 fires, compared with 3,794 in 1960. The area burned during the year totaled 246,878 acres, a new low, in contrast to 504,905 acres in 1960. Forest land accounted for only 14.3 percent of the area burned.

During 1961, 2037 fires were attributable to lightning, while 1,300 fires can be traced to man-made causes. Total damage was placed at \$2,738,174 of which \$1,008,581 was in timber losses.



This year marks the centennial of the Transcontinental Railroad Land Grants, whose early history, as sug-

gested in the painting above, is filled with stories of a nation's growth across the plains.

Anniversary Booklets

During their anniversary year the Bureau of Land Management has produced a series of commemorative booklets. One, *The Transcontinental Railroad Land Grants* describes the events which led to the grant of nearly 4 percent of the land area of the United States and to the building of the transportation links between the Mississippi and the Pacific shore. The Railroad Act was passed on July 1, 1862, and resulted in the granting of more than 91 million acres.

The following day, July 2, 1862, marked the passage of the Land Grant College Act under which more than 11 million acres were granted to States for vocational colleges. That centennial is commemorated in the booklet, *"The Land Grant Colleges"*.

Another booklet, *Landmarks in Public Land Management*, commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Bureau of Land Management.

Other anniversary booklets which may be obtained from the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington 25, D.C., are *Homesteads*, *The First Homesteader*, and *The Homestead Law*.

Rogue River Film Released by BLM

"Rogue River Country," a 28-minute sound and color motion picture, is now available from the Bureau of Land Management.

The new film reviews the recreational opportunity and the wealth of natural resources found in the Rogue River Valley of southwestern Oregon. Scenes include plant and animal life, historic mining areas, white-water rapids, salmon and steelhead runs, and other features of the nationally famous area.

The 16 mm. film is available upon request for school and civic groups and conservation clubs. Prints are available from the Washington and Portland offices.

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STICKY SUBJECT

One of nature's oddities is a sticky subject called the porcupine. A walking pincushion, the porcupine carries his own defense in the readily shed spines.

